2013 City of Austin Google Fiber Community Connections Program Application and Instructions

Google has announced plans to bring Google Fiber to Austin residents. The plan calls for building an ultra, high speed broadband network with Internet speeds of one gigabit per second, up to 100 times faster than normal to Austin's homes.

Google has agreed to provide up to 100 sites with broadband Internet services through its fiber network free of charge until April 8, 2023 in addition to City Hall and the new Central Library. These Community Connections will be to public or non-profit sites in the City of Austin that provide access and services directly to Austinites through what is being called the Community Connections program. Under the agreement with Google Fiber, the City of Austin will create the proposed list of sites for the program.

It is the City Council's goal to ensure an application and selection process that is transparent, available to all, and utilizes a clear set of selection criteria adopted by the City Council. Community Connections aims to provide fiber speed internet access directly to the public and will serve for innovation and digital inclusion, resulting in advancements unique to Austin's spirit.

Attached is the Community Connections Site Application, which is due by September 30, 2013.

Please direct questions to the City's Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Office at digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2999.

For more information and application: austintexas.gov/digitalinclusion

Thank you for your consideration.



Community Connections Site Selection Application Form

The City of Austin will propose 100 public or non-profit organizations to receive Google Fiber connections at their locations.

Application Packet

In order to be considered for selection, please submit the following items:

- General Application Form. Complete this form (ensuring that it is signed and dated.
- Criteria Form. Complete this form as fully as possible. If the organization offers services at more than one location, the applicant should complete the Criteria Form for each location and prioritize the single location that will benefit the most from having a gigabit of service.

Application Submission

All applications are due in the Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs (TARA) before 4:45 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2013. Late applications will not be considered.

Submissions may be submitted by email or snail mail to:

Email: digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov

Address: City of Austin - Municipal Building -124 W. 8th Street, Suite 210, Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: 512.974.2999

Application Review Process

Community Applications

- August 26, 2013 Community Site Applications Available
- September 30, 2013 Deadline for Site Applications for Community Connections
- October 1-31, 2013 Staff Review & Assessment

Site List Adoption

- November 6, 2013 Community Tech & Telecommunications Commission Discussion & Input
- November 13, 2013 Emerging Technology & Telecommunications Council Committee Discussion & Recommendation to Council
- November 21, 2013 Council Discussion & Adoption of Community Connection Site List
- End of 2013 Google Fiber requested deadline for Community Connection Site List from City

Privacy Statement

This information is being collected and will be used to assist in determining your organization's eligibility and qualification for receiving a community connection on the City's proposed site list. This information provided may be published by the City. Any information collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is subject to the Public Information Act.

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Community Connections General Application Form

(Please complete this portion of application only once per organization if submitting for multiple sites)

General Application Form

Applicant Organization Name:

Skillpoint Alliance

Alias/DBA:

Program Name for Google Fiber Connection:

Skillpoint Alliance- Downtown Public Lab

Organization Mission and Purpose:

Skillpoint Alliance is a 501(c)3 social enterprise that builds partnerships among industry, education and the community, leading to college and career success for Central Texans, while meeting employers' needs for a qualified workforce.

Organization Website:

www.skillpointalliance.org

Contact Name:

Casey Smith

City:

Austin

State: TX

Zip: 78701

Phone:

512.814.3259

Email:

csmith@skillpointalliance.org

Location(s) applying for site selection (including physical address of location) and how long your organization plans on being at each location:

Skillpoint Alliance

Main Offices - indefinitely (currently officed in this location since 2007)

201 E. 2nd Street, Suite B

Austin, TX 78701

Skillpoint Alliance

Training Headquarters

600 4th Street

Austin, TX 78701

√ Non-Profit

Number of years in operation:

Number of employees at location:

19

Type of Organization:

Training Headquarters - 3

Main Offices – 31

Community Connections Criteria Form

(Please complete this portion of application once for organization in an electronic document and please explain each response, 1000 words maximum per response, please)

Criteria Form

Organization

1. What is your agency's vision? (response required for all agencies)

Skillpoint Alliance works to close the skills gap in Central Texas by filling open jobs with its citizens, aligning the community to a higher ratio of self-sufficient families. To achieve this, we provide the most cutting edge training for adults to gain employment in jobs that are needed now and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) training for youth to secure jobs in the near future.

2. What is your agency's mission and purpose? (response required for all agencies)

Skillpoint Alliance is a 501(c)3 social enterprise that builds partnerships among industry, education and the community, leading to college and career success for Central Texans, while meeting employers' needs for a qualified workforce.

3. Please list your organization's affiliations, community partnerships, certifications, and/or accreditations. (response required for all agencies)

STEM Council – a community organization facilitated by Skillpoint Alliance that advises and guides the direction of youth training in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). 200+ member council.

Adult Workforce Council – a community organization facilitated by Skillpoint Alliance that advises and guides the direction of training for adults in careers that are in-demand in Central Texas. 80+ member council.

Housing Authority of City of Austin – in partnership, Skillpoint Alliance provides training at no cost to residents of the Housing Authority and in exchange the Housing Authority provides facility space to conduct the trainings.

Austin ISD, Round Rock ISD, Pflugerville ISD – in partnership, Skillpoint Alliance provides STEM training to youth to select schools within the ISDs to conduct robotics, game and mobile app development, and green energy design programs to foster STEM interest among youth.

Literacy Coalition – a community organization that Skillpoint Alliance is a member. Particularly active on the Computer Literacy Taskforce and the Workplace Transitions Taskforce.

National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) – one of only four Site Sponsors in Central Texas that are accredited by NCCER, national curriculum to training youth and adults in construction technology.

Aspen Institute's Austin Opportunity Youth Collaborative – in partnership with 13 other non-profit organizations in Austin working to build an identifiable and clear path for re-engaging youth in educational and career opportunities in Central Texas through the multi-organizational offerings.

4. What is the total number of unduplicated clients served by your organization at this location last fiscal year? (response required for non-profit agencies only)

Main Offices location – served 150 (downtown lab was open only partially due to heavy construction on 2nd street)

ISDs - 14,917

Housing Authority – 425

Austin Community College - 228

5. Briefly provide an overview of your organization and the services it offers. (response required for all agencies)

Through industry direction, Skillpoint Alliance provides training for both youth and adults to align them with the jobs that are on target to open in the next 10-20 years (youth) and the jobs that exist now (adults) in Central Texas. All of the trainings are built upon the direction and advice received from our STEM and Adult Workforce Councils. Both councils are made up of employers in industries that are in the highest demand.

6. Describe the community issues your organization is attempting to address. Include a description of the population most at risk of experiencing the issues described. (response required for non-profit agencies only)

Skillpoint Alliance is closing the skills gap that exists between the education offered in our region and the jobs currently available in our Central Texas economy. We especially aim to close that gap with the residents that already live in Central Texas. Our services are most utilized by those that are typically "hard to employ" or "high-need" and "underserved" student populations. "Hard to employ" encompasses those who are high school dropouts, former offenders, single parents, the unemployed, underemployed, and youth in poverty. "High-need" refers to schools and districts in which 40% or more of the enrolled students are listed as Economically Disadvantaged by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) reports. "Underserved" refers to minority groups traditionally underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines, including African Americans, Hispanics and females according to the National Action Counsel for Minorities in Engineering (NACME). By providing a pipeline of work-ready employees we position our region as one that attracts and retains good jobs.

7. Describe the demographics (e.g. ethnicity, gender, age, and income levels) and geographic characteristics of the community members your organization serves. (response required for non-profit agencies only)

GENERAL	% of TOTAL
Unemployed	95%
Homeless	2%
Military Veteran	6%
Low Income	92%
Former Offenders	21%
Identified Recovering Addicts	1%
Single Parents	38%
AGE	% of TOTAL
15-17	15%
18-24	24%

25-38	33%
39-65	28%
65 +	0%
RACE	% of TOTAL
African American/Black	29%
Hispanic/Latino	30%
White	32%
Asian	1%
American Indian	2%
Alaskan Native	0%
Not Specified	4%
INCOME LEVEL	% of TOTAL
<\$10k	58%
\$10k-\$20k	26%
\$21k-\$30k	7%
\$30-\$50k	8%
\$50k+	1%
EDUCATION LEVEL	% of TOTAL
High School Diploma	50%
GED	39%
College Graduate	1%
Some College	0%
Some High School	10%

8. Describe your organization's accessibility (e.g. accessible main entrance, within blocks of a public bus stop, etc.). (response required for non-profit agencies only)

All of the Skillpoint Alliance training locations are easily accessible by bus. The two (2) locations in this application are both in Downtown Austin and accessible by train, bus, and by marked bicycle lanes. The Main Office location has four (4) buses that stop every 30minutes-1 hour within one block of the Main Offices. Three (3) buses and the CapMetro train stop are within one to two blocks of the Training Headquarters.

9. If selected, how will your organization incorporate Google Fiber into the services it offers? (response required for all agencies)

Google Fiber would be used by all Skillpoint programs – both youth and adult. Specifically in our downtown Empower Computer Lab that trains adults literacy to proficiency in using computer technology; for conducting electronic assessments for Gateway rapid, job training applicants; for our Game and App Jams that serve as a digital technology outreach activities; in hosting training and practice events associated with FIRST® Robotics; Empower virtual volunteer training; and the Skillpoint Alliance staff of 31 people. These activities occur currently in the Main Offices location, but the implementation of Google Fiber would increase the quantity of people we can serve and our ability to provide services to neighboring cities, while also improving our ability to provide the most cutting edge trainings that lead to jobs in Central Texas and beyond—all by the provision of greater bandwidth.

10. The City of Austin requires an annual report explaining how selected organizations and the community they serve benefit from Google Fiber. If selected, how will your organization measure the impact Google Fiber has on those served by your organization? Describe evaluation methods, goals, and objectives. (response required for all agencies)

Output #1: Provide open computer lab space five days per week Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm

Output #2: Stream three (3) volunteer trainings through our website

Output #3 (if secondary location is also awarded): Host Mobile App and Game Jams

Outcome #1: Provide accessibility to 150 individuals through use of the downtown computer lab Outcome #2: Provide virtual training to over 2,500 volunteers

Outcome #3 (if secondary location is also awarded): 100 - 200 people simultaneously develop video games and mobile applications in virtual teams (and update their virtual content on our servers)

Primary Location:
Main Offices Location
201 E. 2nd Street, Suite B
Austin, TX 78701

Community

(responses required for all agencies)

1. Briefly describe how Google Fiber will enhance public participation in your organization's service.

With the reduction in expenses for internet services we will be able to redirect those funds to equipment that will be used for open computer access and allow the general public to use our computer lab and equipment. In addition, we will be able to stream our trainings online, host live and virtual Game and App Jams for groups of 100 - 200 people at a time reaching more Central Texans than we have ever been able to before.

2. Briefly describe how your organization promotes digital inclusion.

As a workforce development agency we are acutely aware of the barriers to employment without computer software knowledge. It is nearly impossible to research leads for employment or write a resume or cover letter without proficiency on the computer. We combat this issue primarily through our Empower computer program that promotes digital inclusion by being in a nearby location to the underserved. In downtown Austin there is a huge need for digital inclusion. The paradox between so many businesses downtown and quantity of the unemployed and working poor downtown results in a large gap between the digitally proficient and the not. Based on our models throughout Austin, a downtown location would work and help shrink the digital divide. We bring computer technology access and training to the neighborhood with a comfortable, hands-on approach that leaves the participants with both foundational and proficiency knowledge that can be applied to any version of email, Microsoft Office and touch software. Our other youth and adult programs promote digital inclusion by creating competencies in advanced technology skills such as computer programming, Computer Assistant Drawing (CAD), and web development. Additionally, Skillpoint offers free vouchers to Empower trainings for any participant in Skillpoint Alliance programs.

3. Will bringing Google Fiber to your organization help the underserved? Please explain.

The majority of Skillpoint participants qualify as "underserved" populations. "Underserved" refers to minority groups traditionally underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines, including African Americans, Hispanics and females according to the National Action Counsel for Minorities in Engineering (NACME). Support directly to Skillpoint by way of Google Fiber will help increase the *quantity* of underserved participants we can reach each year while expanding the ways in which we can interact with our community.

4. How much of your community will benefit from the Google Fiber connection?

Our community lies near several homeless shelters, transitional homes, and religious centers who also serve the underserved, but none provide job-related computer access and training. Skillpoint provides online training and advanced technology training to educators, volunteers and students across the seven-county Central Texas region. Google Fiber will significantly increase Skillpoint's ability to interact with these participants and provide additional programming opportunities that are beyond our currently bandwidth capacity. Additionally, Skillpoint is uniquely positioned within blocks of the Austin Convention Center, providing opportunities to serve visitors and develop enterprise programs that serve clients on a fee-for-service basis, such as 3D rendering and printing, WIFI access, and online content creation competition-driven events on-site.

Primary Location:
Main Offices
201 E. 2nd Street, Suite B
Austin, TX 78701

5. Briefly describe how your organization will offer a new community service as a result of the Google Fiber connection.

With Google Fiber's support, Skillpoint will be able to immediately open its computer lab five days per week to anyone needing access to a computer. We will also be able to scale the size of our Game and App Jams to support hundreds of additional participants that need to upload and download significant digital content associated with their video games and mobile application projects. Further, we will be able to host massive open online courses (MOOCs) associated with our NEXT Intermediate Job Training and STEM Council volunteer training programs.

Innovation

(responses required for all agencies)

1. Please describe the potential innovative applications that could be developed with a gigabit connection.

Our App and Game Jams foster digital technology exploration and hands-on learning for careers in computer programming and engineering for youth and young adults in Central Texas. As it currently works now, we have to get people to use the software in waves, stunting the creative process of the team because there is a wait time due to our limited bandwidth. Further, current bandwidth limits the potential of creating data-intensive mobile application programs, such as massive music downloading or video conferencing applications. In addition, Skillpoint intends to significantly scale its online trainings to communities outside of Austin. Google Fiber will enable us to host more dynamic and bandwidth-heavy content that would over time, lead to greater employment rates in our region.

2. Does your organization have or foresee high bandwidth applications?

We are in the process of moving our office staff to a cloud-based shared-file system. This takes a great amount of bandwidth, but increases our ability to file paperwork and solve problems on the training sites at our other locations across Central Texas rather than waiting to get back to the office to accomplish those tasks. We intend to scale our App and Game Jams through access to Google Fiber, which will allow larger creative teams to upload and download content needed in the development process. Further, we intend to scale our online training programs and make higher use of video conferencing programs as a result of higher bandwidth.

3. Briefly describe how your organization is interested in advancing your technology.

We are very interested as a non-profit workforce development organization that proudly states its industry-led structure. We are always looking to be on the cutting edge of technologies used in our workplaces so that our trainings reflect the most relevant and current technologies being used. With the support of Google Fiber, Skillpoint intends to significantly increase its ability to host Game and App Jams for a larger number of participants, scale our online training programs to serve as MOOCs, support additional streaming and live feed support for our online training programs, and provide an entrepreneurial space for high tech businesses to test mobile applications and video games that can take advantage of significantly increased bandwidth. By doing this we are better preparing our participants for employment in today's workforce and business development opportunities for the future marketplace.

Primary Location:
Main Offices
201 E. 2nd Street, Suite B
Austin, TX 78701

4. Does your organization have the capacity and resources to advance your technologies? Please explain.

Skillpoint has the capacity and resources to leverage Google Fiber. As one of only 8% of non-profit organizations in Central Texas with an operating budget about \$1 million annually, we have the necessary funding earmarked for additional computer and video equipment needed to host ramped-up online training, Game & App Jams, and support new staff uses. Skillpoint has a significant list of private and public sector partners, including the state of Texas, Travis County, the city of Austin, the Austin Chamber of Commerce, Intel, Samsung, Open-Shop and Union Associations in Central Texas as well as many others, which provides us with the resources to grow our program offerings and reach with the support of Google Fiber.

Practical Pragmatic

(responses required for all agencies)

1. Will the connection help your organization financially? How?

Google Fiber would definitely alleviate significant internet service costs. We pay \$6,250 annually for internet services and we can redirect these funds to serve more people directly. It would also enable us to significantly increase our program services without incurring additional costs for acquiring more bandwidth.

2. Will this be the organization's primary or secondary connection?

Primary

3. Does your organization have (or will it have) equipment necessary to connect?

Yes, we do have some capital earmarked for new equipment, upgraded laptops, and audio/visual equipment.

4. Does your organization currently have access to a high bandwidth connection?

We use Vintage IT Services.

Secondary Location: Training Headquarters Location 600 4th Street Austin, TX 78701

Community

(responses required for all agencies)

1. Briefly describe how Google Fiber will enhance public participation in your organization's service.

In the training headquarters Google Fiber will allow us to engage the public more by having an open computer lab and a maker space with 3D printing capability that anyone in the public can use. We are excited about opening up our training space to the public for a few reasons – 1) we can communicate and offer our low to no cost services to more people and since we have a proven record of our abilities to get people into work this will benefit the community certainly; 2) For those using the open spaces at our training headquarters we may be able to engage them as volunteers in our programs if they are already proficient in digital technology; 3) It will elevate our visibility of services by having open spaces to the public; and 4) it will create new entrepreneurial opportunities for those participating in our computer science programs by providing unprecedented access to high bandwidth to support new online mobile application development.

2. Briefly describe how your organization promotes digital inclusion.

As a workforce development agency we are acutely aware of the barriers to employment without computer software knowledge. It is nearly impossible to research leads for employment or write a resume or cover letter without proficiency on the computer. We combat this issue primarily through our Empower computer program that promotes digital inclusion by being in a nearby location to the underserved. In downtown Austin there is a huge need for digital inclusion. The paradox between so many businesses downtown and quantity of the unemployed and working poor downtown results in a large gap between the digitally proficient and the not. Based on our models throughout Austin, a downtown location would work and help shrink the digital divide. We bring computer technology access and training to the neighborhood with a comfortable, hands-on approach that leaves the participants with both foundational and proficiency knowledge that can be applied to any version of email, Microsoft Office and touch software. Our other youth and adult programs promote digital inclusion by creating competencies in advanced technology skills such as computer programming, Computer Assistant Drawing (CAD), and web development. Additionally, Skillpoint offers free vouchers to Empower trainings for any participant in Skillpoint Alliance programs.

3. Will bringing Google Fiber to your organization help the underserved? Please explain.

Google Fiber will absolutely impact the quantity of underserved we can reach by providing more access to computers in our training headquarters, expanding the provision and quality of our online training programs, and increasing our program offerings to include larger computer programming events and 3D printing training, services, and support.

Skillpoint provides a majority of its services to "underserved" populations. "Underserved" refers to minority groups traditionally underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines, including African Americans, Hispanics and females according to the National Action Counsel for Minorities in Engineering (NACME). Support directly to Skillpoint by way of Google Fiber will help increase the *quantity* of underserved participants we can reach each year while expanding the ways in which we can interact with our community.

Secondary Location: Training Headquarters Location 600 4th Street Austin, TX 78701

4. How much of your community will benefit from the Google Fiber connection?

Our community lies near several homeless shelters, transitional homes, and religious centers who also serve the underserved, but none provide job-related computer access and training. Skillpoint provides online training and advanced technology training to educators, volunteers and students across the seven-county Central Texas region. Google Fiber will significantly increase Skillpoint's ability to interact with these participants and provide additional programming opportunities that are beyond our currently bandwidth capacity. Additionally, Skillpoint is uniquely positioned within blocks of the Austin Convention Center, providing opportunities to serve visitors and develop enterprise programs that serve clients on a fee-for-service basis, such as 3D rendering and printing, WIFI access, and online content creation competition-driven events on-site.

5. Briefly describe how your organization will offer a new community service as a result of the Google Fiber connection.

With Google Fiber's support, Skillpoint will be able to immediately open its computer lab five days per week to anyone needing access to a computer and expand its program offerings to include a Maker Space. We will also be able to scale the size of our Game and App Jams to support hundreds of additional participants that need to upload and download significant digital content associated with their video games and mobile application projects. Further, we will be able to host massive open online courses (MOOCs) associated with our NEXT Intermediate Job Training and STEM Council volunteer training programs. Currently there are not any maker spaces and only one open computer lab in downtown Austin.

Innovation

(responses required for all agencies)

1. Please describe the potential innovative applications that could be developed with a gigabit connection.

We are excited about being able to offer maker space, but that means we will need the bandwidth to handle the online software to build out a 3D object. Particularly when we hold a training on 3D printing or for our innovative App & Game Jams, accessing gaming or app online software to accomplish the assigned challenge requires bandwidth for 15 - 200 underserved youth and adults at a time to be accessing those applications in a timely manner. As it currently works now, we get people to use the software in waves, stunting the creative process of the team and length of training because there is a wait time due to our limited bandwidth. Also, being able to stream our trainings live to communities outside of Austin and those residing in Austin but in a sedentary locations would provide a wider reach of training to people that would over time, leading to greater employment rates in our economic region. Further, hosting a gigabit connection will enable our Game and App Jam participants to develop innovative applications that could not properly function at currently available internet speeds.

Secondary Location: Training Headquarters Location 600 4th Street Austin, TX 78701

1. Does your organization have or foresee high bandwidth applications?

At the training headquarters we will stream trainings through our website and be able to use more podcasts and online videos to conduct our trainings. Also, as mentioned above we will need high bandwidth for using online applications in our group trainings, such as thinkercad.com, thingiverse.com, and unity3d.com.

2. Briefly describe how your organization is interested in advancing your technology.

We are a non-profit workforce development organization that proudly states its industry-led structure. We are always looking to be on the cutting edge of technologies used in our workplaces so that our trainings reflect the most relevant and current technologies being employed. By doing this we are better preparing our participants for employment in today's workforce.

3. Does your organization have the capacity and resources to advance your technologies? Please explain.

For the training headquarters we have matching funders ready to outfit the space with a maker space, computer lab, free WIFI café we can call a "Google Fiber" café, if we are awarded this grant. Other than that, we do have resources to advance our technologies. We already have earmarked funding for more computers and upgraded laptops for participant trainings. In addition, we have set aside funds for video and audio equipment to create recorded trainings and video diaries for participants.

Practical Pragmatic

(responses required for all agencies)

1. Will the connection help your organization financially? How?

Besides the direct reduction in internet service costs, in which we pay \$6,250 annually for internet service, we can redirect these funds to serve more people. In addition to this, we will generate revenue through a Google Fiber Café and 3D printing services. The location is particularly ideal being so close to the Convention Center and central to so many businesses downtown, which provides the opportunity to develop enterprise funds on a fee-for-service basis. This will help Skillpoint Alliance in its own financial sustainability.

2. Will this be the organization's primary or secondary connection?

Secondary

3. Does your organization have (or will it have) equipment necessary to connect?

Yes, we do have some capital earmarked for new equipment, upgraded laptops, audio/visual equipment and new server.

4. Does your organization currently have access to a high bandwidth connection?

We use Vintage IT Services.

Applicant's Statement

I certify that answers given herein are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false or misleading information given in my application will result in disqualification. I understand and agree that I am required to abide by City of Austin ordinances, policies and rules.

I understand if selected to receive a Google Fiber connection that the organization I represent may be required to:

✓ submit an annual report to the TARA Office explaining how the organization has benefited from the free service.

Signature

Please submit this form to TARA by 4:45 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2013.

Email: digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov Address: City of Austin – TARA - Municipal Building

Email: digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov Address: City of Austin – TARA - Mu
124 W. 8th Street, Suite 210

Austin, Texas 78701